

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10-19, 21, and 26-29 are presently pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 20, and 22-25 have been canceled. Claims 10 and 21 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter from claim 1, and the subject matter from claims 1, 18, 19, and 20 has been incorporated into new claim 26. The subject matter from claims 8, 2, and 5 has been incorporated into claims 27, 28, and 29, respectively, but depend on claim 10 rather than on claim 1. Finally, claims 11, 12, 14-16 and 18 have been amended to depend from claim 10. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In Paper No. 18, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 14, 16-18 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,923,775 of Schank ("Schank"). Claims 2, 5, 13 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schank. Finally, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 9, 11-13, 15-19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,666,830 of Alekna ("Alekna"). All of these rejections have been made previously by the Examiner and the arguments in support thereof summarized on the record, and will not be repeated here in the interest of brevity. Further, since all of the rejected claims have been canceled by the present amendment, all of the rejections are rendered moot, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication in Paper No. 18 that claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 20, and 21 are only objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment, the subject matter from the base claims has been incorporated into the rejected dependent claims and claims

2, 5, 8, and 11-19 have been amended or rewritten to depend directly or indirectly from claim 10, now allowable. Applicants thus submit that all of the pending claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BARRY ARKLES, et al.

March 4, 2004
(Date)

By: 
SANDRA M. KATZ
Registration No. 51,864
AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.
One Commerce Square
2005 Market Street, Suite 2200
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7086
Telephone: 215-965-1200
Direct Dial: 215-965-1344
Facsimile: 215-965-1210
E-Mail: skatz@akingump.com

WWS/SMK:smk

Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time (five months)